

Operation Renew targets 17 structures in Petersburg

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Army, Air Guard engineers demo derelict structures

Soldiers and Airmen from the Virginia National Guard brought their heavy equipment to Petersburg Aug. 19 – 30 to demolish decaying homes as part of Operation Renew.

“The purpose of this mission is basically to help the community get rid of some of the blighted properties in the area and to help reduce the drug demand,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cory Wheeler, assigned to the Virginia Guard Counterdrug Task Force and the project officer for the Petersburg Operation Renew mission.

Approximately 30 Virginia Guard engineers participated in the operation, which provides engineer assets to assist communities in reclaiming control of known drug trafficking areas by tearing down derelict structures associated with the drug trade.

“This is a great day for Petersburg. We really appreciate what the National Guard is doing,” said Mayor Brian A. Moore, the mayor of Petersburg.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/08/28/4368/>



Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers demolish an abandoned building Aug. 21, 2013, in Petersburg, Va. as part of Operation Renew.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

WOCs' community project brightens up Blackstone

Warrant Officer Candidates from the Virginia National Guard's Fort Pickett-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute painted curbs and fire hydrants in downtown Blackstone Aug. 24, 2013, as part of their Warrant Officer Candidate School community project.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/08/28/4377/>

National Guard, Reserve Soldiers learn advanced infantry skills

The Fort Pickett-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute taught the Infantryman's Advanced Leader Course for the first time to a class of 13 infantrymen. The course was held Aug. 3-17, 2013, and included National Guard Soldiers from Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/08/28/4364/>

Virginia Guard recognizes partnership with Tajikistan

The Virginia National Guard recognized 10 years of a successful partnership with the Republic of Tajikistan with the presentation of a certificate of recognition Aug. 21, 2013, at the United States Embassy in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/08/25/4355/>

New commander takes charge of 91st Troop Command

Col. Marti J. Bissell took command of the Bowling Green-based 91st Troop Command from Col. Walter L. Mercer in a traditional change of command ceremony held Aug. 18, 2013, at Fort A. P. Hill.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/08/22/4359/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Sept. 6: Fort Pickett Open House

The Virginia Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center - Fort Pickett will host an Open House event Friday, Sept. 6, 2013. The event will be held at the Post Theater (Building 2480) on Friday afternoon from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The event includes a brief overview of the current initiatives and capabilities on Fort Pickett, followed by a guided bus tour of units training on some of its premier facilities.

The tour will provide our guests with the opportunity to observe dynamic training events from a safe distance without interaction with the Soldiers, so as not to distract them from their duties.

Seating is limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis.

192nd IS works with Army Guard and VSP

Virginia Guard Airmen from the 192nd Intelligence Squadron, 192nd Fighter Wing from Joint Base Langley-Eustis joined forces with the Virginia Army National Guard and Virginia State Police during an Incident Awareness and Assessment Exercise that verified the ability to provide a full-motion video signal during an operational exercise Aug. 21, 2013, at Camp Pendleton, Va.

The six-day domestic operations exercise, which ran Aug. 18-23, used a Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation Portable system that allowed Airmen access to video signals captured through a sophisticated camera on the Virginia National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter. The same video signals are sent directly to the Virginia State Police's mobile command center vehicle and handheld receivers.

"The main purpose of this exercise is to practice the interoperability of communications between the Virginia State Police, the 192nd Intelligence Squadron and the Virginia Army National Guard's aviation asset," said Lt. Col. Bryan Salmon, 192nd IS commander. "It provides decision makers, in times of an emergency, with near real-time information."

In a natural disaster scenario, like after hurricane, Air and National Guard assets help support state agencies that need vital information on impacted areas to make vital decisions.

"The targets or main areas of interest are provided to us by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management or the Virginia State Police," said Capt. Billy Giannetti, 192nd IS project officer. "Once we obtain those targets, we scrutinize them with the J-2 (Joint Intelligence) at Joint Forces Headquarters," he said. "We use the UH-72 Lakota helicopter to perform the mission by shooting full-motion video of the target."

Once the video is obtained from the three-person Army Guard chopper crew and a 192nd IS imagery analyst, they take screen shots by electronically creating a still picture from a video image. 192nd IS imagery analysts study the target images, such as a collapsed bridge or an overcrowded hospital emergency entrance, then forward their findings to Joint Force Headquarters and key state agency customers for coordinated response efforts.

About 30 Airmen from the 192nd IS supported the exercise.

They coordinated with the UH-72 Lakota pilots from the Sandston-based Detachment 1, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment, using secure radio channels. A ground station was set up by a team from Detachment 1, brought the UH-72 Lakota video feed from air to ground and then re-distributed it to the 192nd IS and VSP. At the state mobile command center vehicle, VSP coordinated with Air Guard and Army National Guard personnel to integrate resources.

As with the state's I-64 lane reversal exercise held on July 21, the goal of these exercises is to efficiently evaluate emergency situations and protect our citizens throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia using the eye in the sky.

"Our mission is to get our state police command post and integrate it with a military helicopter so we can see their (video) downlink," said Sgt. 1st Class Ray Newby. "This signal will give



Virginia Guard Soldiers and Airmen discuss a flight plan to provide aerial imagery support to a domestic operations exercise with the 192nd Intelligence Squadron Aug. 21, 2013, at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach.

command staff situational awareness sitting right here at this table. They will become better commanders because they will be able to make their decisions that way."

Image analyzing goals accomplished by the 192nd IS during this exercise can be credited to personnel using their expertise from a federal role to a state role.

"We perform federal missions to support Joint Forces downrange," said Salmon. "We use that same skill in domestic missions, but with a different customer. The skill set is easily transferrable."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/08/24/4388/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: Lakota aviators support Va. Air Guard exercise

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157635192665591/>

Photos: Senator Reeves visit Camp Pendleton

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157635172481388/>

Photos: Aviators conduct advanced hoist training with Chesterfield first responders

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157635090270987/>

Camp Pendleton CTC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/CampPendletonCTC>

Fort Pickett MTC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FortPickett>

Virginia National Guard on Twitter

<http://www.twitter.com/VaNationalGuard>

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